

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

- providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;
- providing a first characterizing descriptor filter;
- providing a second characterizing descriptor filter;
- simultaneously displaying:
 - a first selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion as corresponds to a present setting of the first characterizing descriptor filter;
 - a second selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion as corresponds to a present setting of the second characterizing descriptor filter;
 - at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria further comprises not displaying any of the characterizing descriptors as do not correspond to the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content further comprises providing access to textual characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content further comprises providing access to characterizing descriptors that comprise at least one of:

- a programming network identifier;
- a broadcast starting time;
- a description of the audio/video content;
- content media source.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media.

6. The method of claim 3 further comprising simultaneously displaying a program of audio/visual content.

7. The method of claim 3 further comprising simultaneously displaying a preview of a discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-definable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the preview of a discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-definable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is displayed as a background image.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the preview of a discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-definable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is displayed as a windowed segregated image.

10. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

- selecting at least one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content as corresponds to the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria;
- transmitting a signal to an audio/visual display device indicating the selection of the at least one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content as corresponds to the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is selected in response to a remote control device.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is selected in response to a remote control device by scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein:

- displaying a first selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion as corresponds to a present setting of the first characterizing descriptor filter further comprises displaying only the first selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion; and
- displaying a second selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion as corresponds to a present setting of the second characterizing descriptor filter further comprises displaying only the second selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion.

14. The method of claim 13 and further comprising:

- at least pre-selecting the first selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion;
- automatically displaying a plurality of selectable user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria for the first characterizing descriptor filter.

15. The method of claim 14 and further comprising:

- detecting selection of one of the plurality of selectable user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria for the first characterizing descriptor filter to thereby provide a new selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion for the first characterizing descriptor filter;
- automatically displaying at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the new selected user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion and the present setting of the second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

16. An interactive data display system comprising:

- characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data;
- at least a first and a second characterizing descriptor filter;
- control circuitry that simultaneously displays:
 - at least one of a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter;
 - at least one of a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter;
 - at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

17. The interactive data display system of claim 16 further comprising:

- a remote control device for at least pre-selecting the present setting of either of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

18. The interactive data display system of claim 17 wherein said remote control device comprises at least one key for scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

19. The interactive data display system of claim 18 wherein the remote control device further comprises at least one key for moving an area of focus from one user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion to another user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion.

20. The interactive data display system of claim 16 further comprising:
- a remote control device for selecting the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

21. The interactive data display system of claim 20 wherein the remote control device comprises at least one key for scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

22. The interactive data display system of claim 21 wherein the remote control device further comprises at least one key for moving an area of focus from one user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion to another user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criterion.

23. The interactive data display system of claim 16 further comprising control circuitry that simultaneously displays a program of audio/visual content.

24. The interactive data display system of claim 16 further comprising control circuitry that simultaneously displays a preview of a discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-definable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

25. The interactive data display system of claim 24 wherein the preview is displayed as a background image.